

COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

SUBJECT Russian Export Firms in
the Russian Zone

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. In the Russian Zone of Germany, exports are handled entirely by specially authorized Russian firms. These are quite distinct from the Soviet AGs and are not under their control. They purchase German goods, produced both by German firms and by Soviet AGs, paying for them in marks, and sell them to other countries, including the USSR, for foreign currency. Exact markets are not known, but Sweden and Czechoslovakia are among the buyers. export profits are collected by SMA.

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Comment: Russian export firms do not furnish goods for the Soviet army but deal exclusively in export items. Orders for products for the army from German firms are filled independently of export orders and in addition to them. Russian firms are also unrelated to the Deutsche Verwaltung für Interzonen- und Aussenhandel, which deals with imports and exports of German firms.

2. Russian firms exporting goods from the Russian Zone of Germany include:

- a. Rasno-Export GmbH, Berlin - leather goods, musical instruments, toys, writing materials, toilet articles, medical supplies, cameras, professional clothing, consumer goods of all types
- b. Techno-Export GmbH, Berlin - machines, technical apparatus, vehicles, manufacturing equipment, electro-technical goods, and similar products
- c. Promexport GmbH, Berlin - coal, chemicals, fertilizers, mining products
- d. Export-Lion GmbH, Berlin - cellulose, rayon, raw materials for textile industry, finished and unfinished products

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- e. Soyuspushnina GmbH, Leipzig - pelts and furs
- f. Sovexportfilm GmbH, Berlin - film (This firm also produces film, the only export firm which does any manufacturing.)

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Comment: The actual number of Russian export firms appears uncertain. Source 1 names the first four firms listed and states that these have an absolute monopoly on export trade. Source 2, on the other hand, not only names two additional firms, but implies that there are others which are also authorized to export goods, in addition to the German export direction of the Deutsche Verwaltung für Interzonen- und Aussenhandel.

3. The Rasno-Import GmbH exports to Russia and to Sweden and Czechoslovakia, since German firms producing for Rasno were ordered to print directions in Swedish and Czech for the use of their articles. One of the Rasno managers, in charge of delivery, is a Russian named Yerkov. German firms which work exclusively, or almost exclusively, for Rasno include:
 - a. Richard Dick in Markneukirchen, which delivered 60,000 RM worth of musical instruments to Rasno in the second quarter of 1947.
 - b. Meinel in Klingenthal, which furnishes 60 to 80 medium-sized accordions to Rasno monthly; most of them go to Sweden.
 - c. Harms-Musikindustrie K. Bauer in Markneukirchen, which delivered 80 large-sized balalaikas to Rasno in August 1947 for Czechoslovakia. The firm has been ordered to increase its output to 100 to 120 large-sized balalaikas per month by the end of 1947.
 - d. Gustav Nejedly and A.F. Reichel in Markneukirchen, which produce musical instruments exclusively for Rasno.
 - e. Bogarski in Erfurt, a leather goods firm, which delivered 50 leather coats to Rasno in August 1947 for Sweden.
4. Export-Lion GmbH, textiles, has one Russian manager named Gerkanov who is a demobilized officer. In the second quarter of 1947, the Leipzig textile factory L. Wildeis furnished the firm 600 suits through Lieberoth transport firm of Leipzig. The suits, purchased at 122 RM each, were scheduled to go to Russia, and 900 suits and 250 coats were ordered for the third quarter of 1947. The Wildeis firm was told that raw material for filling the orders would be imported from Czechoslovakia.
5. Soyuspushnina GmbH in Leipzig, exporting pelts and furs, is managed by a Russian named Dubransky, one of whose assistants is a Russian named Weinmann. The firm ordered 8000 fur jackets and 2500 fur coats during the third quarter of 1947 from the Leipzig fur concern Cornelius Glabischer. A representative of the German firm stated that Soyuspushnina was scheduled to export in all 11,250 fur jackets, 4500 fur coats, and 7500 rabbit-fur linings from the Russian Zone to the USSR during the third quarter of 1947.

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Comment: According to information from several other reliable sources, considerable export from the Russian Zone is being handled directly by German firms without the benefit of Russian export firm intermediation. It appears, therefore, that the prerogatives of Russian export firms are by no means exclusive and that the firms are to be regarded not as controlling all Russian Zone exports but probably only as providing a channel for some additional Soviet revenue.

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